

Tourism Potential of Protected Natural Areas and Problems of Its Use

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Annotation. The use of the ecotourism potential of protected natural areas for the purpose of organizing ecotourism has been a global trend for many years. The article describes the key aspects of the development of ecological tourism in protected natural areas.

Keywords: protected natural areas, ecotourism, reserves, parks, legislation, IUCN, WWF.

Ecological tourism is an important part of environmental management, it includes the creation and maintenance of recreational systems, including support for the development of destinations in the direction of improving their ecological and general culture. The development of ecological tourism in nature reserves from the point of view of sustainable development can reduce the negative impact of traditional tourism on the environment, change views on this problem [3, 4, 6].

Ecotourism in this case is the possibility of real attraction of capital for the development of nature reserves, and in some cases, obtaining additional foreign currency for the state. This will undoubtedly contribute to a change in the attitudes of local residents, a careful attitude towards nature reserves. The second half of the twentieth century can rightfully be described as the "epoch of tourism". At present, natural and recreational resources and objects of protected natural areas (hereinafter referred to as PNA) attract tourists and are, in essence, a market tourism product. Thanks to the development of ecological tourism, people will actively participate in the protection of the ecological environment of the protected area. Around the world, many countries are actively developing ecological farms in protected areas according to the characteristics of their resources, while receiving real profits [7].

Therefore, the new PNA paradigm is characterized by the active introduction of social and economic practices in the territory of special protection, the most large-scale of which is the practice of ecological tourism. At the same time, in addition to scientific and environmental significance, regional protected areas have significant recreational potential and can be successfully involved in activities aimed at meeting the aesthetic and recreational needs of people and contributing to the growth and development of their environmental consciousness [5, 7].

There is no exact definition of tourism in protected areas in the scientific literature. Tourism in protected natural areas is an organized, cost-effective active form of recreation aimed at the knowledge of natural objects and phenomena and active recreation based on the rational use of natural objects. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) emphasizes that ecotourism involves environmentally responsible travel in relatively undisturbed natural areas with the aim of exploring and enjoying nature and cultural attractions. The World Wildlife Fund also focuses on the environmental orientation of ecotourism: "Ecotourism is nature tourism that contributes to the protection of nature." An analysis of the approaches of foreign researchers and international organizations to the identification of ecological tourism allows us to single out three of its mandatory components:

1) knowledge of nature, i.e., the presence of elements of the study of nature, the acquisition of new knowledge and skills by tourists;

2) conservation of ecosystems, which implies not only the appropriate behavior of the group on the route, but also the participation of tourists and tour operators in programs and activities to protect the environment;

3) respect for the interests of local residents, which means both compliance with local laws and customs, and the contribution of tourism to the socio-economic development of tourist destinations [4, 7].

In accordance with this, it is possible to determine the main functions of ecological tourism: recreational, environmental, educational, health-improving, socio-economic (improving the quality of life of the local population, creating new jobs, increasing local budget revenues, implementing investment programs, etc.). This is especially noticeable in studies of recreational geography and the geography of nature management - one of the applied branches of geographical research. This is noticeable in changes in people's awareness of themselves as part of the natural world, and not just culture. Despite the many problems that exist, such as:

- lack of a common national concept for the development of ecological tourism;
- clearly formulated state policy; - standards and regulations applicable in the field of rural tourism;
- qualified personnel;
- knowledge and experience in the field of servicing foreign and domestic tourists;
- regulatory legal acts regulating activities in the field of ecological tourism;
- unwillingness and inability to rationally use their own recreational resources) [4].

Currently, the creation and operation of protected areas are mainly dealt with by geographers and ecologists. When specialists in tourist and excursion work are involved in the work on protected areas, it is possible to get a result from their recreational use. Protected areas are a very promising place to meet the growing needs of people for educational outdoor recreation. Therefore, protected areas play a significant role in tourism and recreation. But, on the other hand, for the protected area, tourists are considered from two positions: as a source of pollution - a negative factor and as a desirable guest - an economic benefit. Thus, we can conclude that protected areas should be used for the competent development of ecological types of tourism. Then, in addition to environmental significance, which is an incomprehensible abstraction for a large part of the population and many representatives of government and business, protected areas will become an economic resource of the region [1, 8]. Thus, protected natural areas are the most important link in the development of ecological tourism, as they have a number of advantages:

- located in the most picturesque, attractive, interesting places from a cognitive point of view;
- have an established system of servicing tourist groups, a well-developed system of tourist routes, experience in organizing educational work;
- have a certain infrastructure and trained personnel;
- form the attitude of the local population to a specific nature reserve and the environmental restrictions on economic activity existing on its territory [5, 7].

The Rapid Evaluation Mechanism is based on rough estimates and, in part, on reasonable assumptions. In case of serious doubts, it is recommended to "play" several scenarios on the basis of various assumptions. Judgments about the prospects and justification of tourism development, made by express assessment, can be quite arbitrary.

At the next stage (development of the concept) it is necessary to carry out a more serious analysis. Nevertheless, the results of the express assessment make it possible to find out what kind of tourism and how should be developed in a given territory. They also make it possible to realize the potential and risks associated with the development of tourism. With the development of ecotourism in protected areas, the issue of choosing the category of protected areas is important (Table 1).

The above tables and the PNA show that Uzbekistan has ample opportunities for the development of eco-tourism. The next task is to draw up a route plan for each object i.e. PNA. To attract local and foreign tourists, it is necessary to advertise these tourist sites [1, 8].

Table 1
 Ecotourism potential of protected natural areas on examples of ecotourism

Protected area types	IUCN protected area categories	Ecotourism potential *
State natural reserves	Ia	1
Interstate reserves	Ia	1
State biosphere reserves	Ib	2
Complex (landscape) reserves	Ib	2
National parks	II	1
Natural parks	II	1
State monuments of nature	III	1
Sacred landscape	III	1
Reserves	IV	2
Natural nurseries	IV	3
Water protection zones	V	2
Coastal strips	V	3
Zones of formation of surface and ground waters	V	3
Protected forests	VI	1
Resort natural areas	VI	1
Recreational areas	VI	2
Fishery zones	VI	2

*On examples of ecotourism. Key: 1 = task of paramount importance; 2 = task of secondary importance; 3 = potentially applicable task; – = not applicable.

It is expedient to consider the criterion of clarity and good preservation as one of the criteria for identifying the suitability of a sacred landscape as a protected area. Much attention is paid to sacred sites that contribute to the conservation of biodiversity in the environment. The Fergana Valley is a kind of natural landscape created by nature itself. Almost all types of natural landscapes are found here: from the yellow-gray sands of Central Fergana to high-altitude colorful alpine meadows [8, 11]. To preserve the unique creations of nature, the locals recognized them as sacred objects of the region. Most of the sacred objects that occupy a certain place in the landscapes of the Ferghana Valley have a religious tourist attraction [9, 10]. Sacred landscapes and objects (for example, Shakhimardon, Sotkak aziz, Ettibulok) are especially famous, which have relative transport accessibility, safety and the presence of additional cultural objects, which increases the attractiveness of this area. Many natural phenomena have exceptional cultural value and are recognized as cultural heritage (for example, sacred mountains, groves, springs of water), and, on the contrary, many cultural monuments lose their integrity and authenticity, being deprived of their natural and landscape context. Much attention is paid to sacred sites that contribute to the conservation of biodiversity in the environment [12].

So, it makes sense to identify and evaluate the ecotourism potential of any territory as a comparative assessment: assessing a fixed set of potential components, using qualitative scales in their scoring form to calculate the final assessment, involving the required number of objects in the comparative assessment, clearly denoting the territorial framework of comparison. Profit from the development of ecotourism can be used not only to support the scientific and environmental activities of protected natural areas, but also to the socio-economic needs of the local population.

The task of geographers in advertising is to draw up plans and maps of routes. Tourism can develop in all categories of protected areas, however, it should be noted that this applies to all protected areas, with the exception of state reserves, protected areas of national natural parks and biosphere reserves, where any economic activity is prohibited by law. Therefore, it imposes maximum restrictions on the organization of ecological tourism. The specificity of reserves as reserves created to solve a number of research problems

makes it possible to use them for scientific ecological tourism. However, its development requires the allocation of special zones, strict adherence to the adopted environmental system and a clear rationing of the number of visitors.

Based on the analysis of the key biodiversity areas of the Fergana Valley and the prospects for the creation of protected natural areas, the following conclusions can be drawn. In order to develop the protected areas system, 14 sites have been identified that are promising for the creation of new protected areas. The existing protected areas system according to the laws of Uzbekistan is represented by 7 categories. At the same time, the category "state reserve" of the Fergana Valley is being introduced for the first time. The prospective network of protected areas is representative of the geographical diversity and ensures the ecological balance of the Fergana Valley. Additional recommendations for optimizing the protected areas system: creation of a state nature reserve, an integrated (landscape) sanctuary and a natural park, in areas with a combination of natural and recreational value and the development of protected areas of local importance [2].

The organization of sustainable tourism in protected areas allows not only to provide the necessary conditions for recreation and recreation of the population, but also to preserve these unique objects of tourist display for future generations. The existing problems in the development of sustainable tourism in protected areas, having a rather acute and systemic nature, can be solved on the basis of a scientific approach based on a thorough study of the tourism potential of each specific protected natural area.

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